

Appendix 3: Ecological Network

Ecological Network

Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Ecological Network Map

Policy LHB 21: County-Wide Ecological Network

It is Council policy to develop an Ecological Network throughout the County, which will improve the ecological coherence of the Natura 2000 network in accordance with Article 10 of the Habitats Directive. The network will also include non-designated sites.

In accordance with the above policy a Map has been prepared showing a schematic and indicative County-wide Ecological Network stretching from the mountains to the sea (Refer to Ecological Network Map in supplementary A2 booklet of maps). It illustrates the strength and wide coverage of the Ecological Network across the County. This Network also extends beyond the County into neighbouring Counties. There are clearly overlaps and synergies between this Network concept and that of the Green Infrastructure Strategy (Refer to Appendix 15).

The Map has been prepared using data derived from the various biodiversity studies that have been undertaken in recent years as part of the County Biodiversity Plan. Not all areas studied have been mapped as many are already subsumed into and incorporate parts of the high amenity, green belt, agricultural and open space zoning objective areas which are all shown on the map. However a number of areas have been shown - namely the ten upland areas studied and also the calcareous grasslands at Kingston, Kiltiernan. These areas are not currently afforded any statutory protection but the local studies in relation to these areas have concluded that they are worthy of pNHA status.

Biodiversity studies informing the Ecological Network Map include the following assessments which have been undertaken either in-house or by consultants commissioned by Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council:-

- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Habitats Survey (2007), White Young Green.
- Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown Hedgerow Survey (2008), RSK Carter Ecological.
- Calcareous Grasslands at Kingston, Kiltiernan (2009), Melinda Lyons.
- Landscape Conservation for Irish bats. Summary report for Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown, 2012, Bat Conservation Ireland.
- A Report on the Collation and Review of Biodiversity Data for the Coastal zone (2009), Golder Associates.
- Assessment Of The Nature Conservation Value Of Loughlinstown Wood (2012), Denyer Ecology.
- Report to Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown County Council on the Rare Plant Survey (2009 & 2010), David Nash and Sylvia Reynolds.
- A Survey of Squirrel Populations in Barnaslingan, Carrickgollogan, Ticknock & Kilmashogue Woodlands (2010), Geoff Hamilton.
- 'Parklife' - a Policy for Enhancing Biodiversity in Parks and Green Spaces 2010. DLRCC.
- River Dodder Biodiversity Study and Management Plan (2010), Mary Tubridy.
- Management of Knotweed along the River Dodder (2011), Mary Tubridy.
- Bride's Glen Ecological Assessment (2012), Denyer Ecology.
- Otter Survey, Bride's Glen (2012), Scott Cawley.
- Assessment of the Nature Conservation Value of Ten Upland Sites in Dún Laoghaire-Rathdown (2011), Denyer Ecology.
- Cabinteely House Bat Survey (2010), Tina Aughney.
- Marlay House Bat Survey (2010), Tina Aughney.
- St Helen's Wood Biodiversity Study (2010), DLRCC.
- Ecological Guidance for Local Authorities and Developers (2014).

